

MILWAUKEE SAFETY COMMISSION ACTIVITIES
For PROGRAM YEARS 2004 - 2005 - 2006

Tuesday, January 13, 2004

The subject of pedestrian safety was discussed. A motion was made to prepare a news release regarding pedestrian safety to include: emphasizing pedestrian safety; reminding pedestrians to wear reflective clothing; using crosswalks; and reminding homeowners to clear sidewalks of snow.

Ms. Schultz reported that the AAA magazine notes that the week of January 12 – 16, 2004 is Adult School Crossing Guard Recognition Week. Motion was made to participate in any activities to recognize adult school crossing guards.

Motion was made to support Assembly Bill 724, which creates a tiered structure for the age and size of constraint requirements for transporting children under the age of 8 in a motor vehicle. It also prohibits transportation of a child under the age of 8 in a motor vehicle unless the child is properly restrained.

Ms. Schultz discussed Assembly Bill 369, which requires Wisconsin DOT to provide transportation planning and assistance when reviewing a sight plan for a proposed school construction or enlargement. In addition to public schools, private and charter schools were included. Motion was made to support AB 369.

It was agreed to reaffirm the Commission's support of primary seat belt enforcement and to forward a letter of support on to AAA and state representatives.

Tuesday, March 9, 2004 (Traffic Schools)

Mr. Radke shared some concerns regarding loud music playing in vehicles, children playing sports in the street and bicyclists needing to be reminded that the rules for bicyclists are the same as motorists. A motion was made to invite the Road Warrior of the Journal Sentinel to a Full Commission meeting, possibly the June meeting.

Ms. Roberts reported that she has been in contact with Carol Ahlers, the MADD Coordinator for Washington County. Ms. Ahlers is looking for a coordinator for Milwaukee County and asked if anyone is interested. Being a former Chapter President, Ms. Stearns will contact Ms. Ahlers to provide information on Milwaukee's history with MADD.

Ms. Stearns reminded members of the Miller Free Rides program for St. Patrick's Day.

Tuesday, April 13, 2004

Officer Shellee Lubus, Community Liaison Office for District 7, spoke to the Commission regarding concerns about portable basketball hoops. Officer Lubus reported that a program was started last year in District 7 where auxiliaries drove around the district and confiscated portable hoops that were abandoned. This program is promoted through the Block Watch Program and the Park Watch Program. Children over 12 years of age, playing basketball in the street, can be issued a citation for loitering in the roadway.

Officer Lubus also reported that theft of license plates is a huge problem in the City of Milwaukee. In District 7 alone, they average approximately 70 license plates stolen per week. Research was done to combat the problem and one solution is new license plate screws that are applied with a regular flat head screwdriver but cannot be removed without a special screwdriver. These screws are almost 100% effective and their use is being expanded into other Milwaukee Police districts.

Mr. Butula shared some concerns regarding handicapped placards left hanging in vehicles when the vehicle is being driven. These placards are supposed to be removed from the rear view mirror when the vehicle is in motion. Officer Lubus said that she would discuss this with her Captain about being mentioned at the Chief's staff meeting.

Mr. Blank questioned if the other district liaison officers might be interested in the concerns of the Safety Commission. Officer Lubus mentioned the fact that the public might not be informed about the Safety Commission and what they are about. She added that once a month each district holds a community meeting and guest speakers are invited. A member of the Safety Commission could attend and talk about the Commission and its mission and hear concerns from the public.

Mr. Blank asked that Officer Lubus' presentation be highlighted and sent to the appropriate person in each district.

Mr. Blank asked Safety Director Roberts to make arrangements to have the "Road Warrior" give a presentation at the June Commission meeting.

Tuesday, May 11, 2004 (Traffic Schools)

Ernie Stetenfeld of AAA Wisconsin and Jeffrey Bagdade of AAA Michigan made a presentation on Michigan's Road Improvement Demonstration Program.

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

A letter was received from Mr. Frank ZIEDLER asking the Commission to study the conditions of safety along the banks of streams and watercourses in the City of Milwaukee, especially along the Milwaukee River.

It was recommended that a news release be sent out regarding various summer safety tips and to thank the media for bringing various safety hazards to the forefront, including electric windows in autos and water safety.

An ordinance has been proposed relating to the duties of the Safety Commission. The ordinance is asking for three things: 1. the Commission shall establish standards for the location of school crossing guards; 2. submit to the Common Council, an annual report on motor vehicle traffic accident trends; 3. it shall be the duty of the Safety commission to investigate, advise and report to the Mayor, Common Council, Police Department and Commissioner of Public Works and other city officials concerning the best methods of providing for the safety and convenience of the public in matters of safety and to give the greatest possible publicity as to safety precautions. Motion was made to endorse the proposed ordinance.

Mr. RADKE mentioned that he has seen a problem with motorized wheelchairs riding in the street. It was suggested that vendors be contacted to see if they provide any safety information when selling this equipment.

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. Loeffler distributed a packet of information on motorized scooters. He suggested that the Commission contact the Safe Kids Coalition, who is sponsored by Children's Hospital, to gather data and join with them to write a letter to the Journal Sentinel stating the Commission's position on the legality of motor scooters.

Direction for 2005 includes: water safety; bicycle safety; a presentation from the Safe Kids Coalition, the Injury Free Coalition and the Medical College of Wisconsin's Injury Research Center; collect data on pedestrian crashes, when and where they are occurring.

Tuesday, October 19, 2004 (Traffic Schools)

Safety Director DUKES discussed two resolutions introduced by the Common Council. The first deals with a Substitute Resolution directing the Safety Commission to prepare a report on improving safety on Milwaukee's rivers and waterways. Ms. SCHULTZ questioned if there is a specific area in the City where these accidents have been occurring. The problems are occurring citywide.

The second deals with a Substitute Ordinance relating to duties and composition of the Safety Commission. A meeting is being scheduled to include, Chair Agnes STEARNS, Safety Director DUKES, Fire Chief WENTLANDT, Police Chief HEGGERTY, and Alderman WITKOWSKI to look at the overall responsibilities and membership composition of the Safety Commission

Tuesday, November 9, 2004

A discussion took place regarding the city ordinances pertaining to vehicles having two license plates and garages that are on alleys, having the house address on them.

Mr. LOEFFLER reported that traffic fatalities in the City of Milwaukee are down approximately 10% compared to last year at this time. Both bicycle and pedestrian fatalities are up.

Some information regarding motorized scooters was distributed and discussed. The only place these scooters are legal is on your own property or driveway. Motorized scooters are the number one cause of injuries to children. It was recommended that this issue be brought to the Public Safety Committee. Motion was made to ask the Public Safety Committee to consider enactment of an ordinance that any business in Milwaukee that sells the motorized scooters be required to have an informed consent statement signed by the purchaser regarding where and where not they may be used. Motion was seconded. A friendly amendment was added that there would be a penalty for non-compliance.

Tuesday, December 14, 2004 (Traffic Schools)

Agnes STEARNS reported that Miller Brewing will be providing the Miller Free Rides for New Year's Eve. They have asked for the Commission's endorsement.

A draft resolution was distributed regarding the sale of motorized scooters. The resolution will go before the Public Safety Committee in January. Safety Director DUKES asked for approval from the Commission.

Safety Director DUKES reported that there has been a request to expand the duties of the Safety Commission to include water safety, fire arms, and poisonings. A meeting was held with Mayor Barrett to discuss the composition of the Commission. The Legislative Research Bureau has drafted new language, which decreases the number of Full Commission members to nine, three of those members must have some expertise in the area of safety. The Commission, at its discretion, can still appoint various ad hoc committees. A draft copy of the resolution will be sent for review for the January meeting. The Safety Commission will still be an advisory committee to the Common Council, Police Department and Safety Division.

Marty WALL, a citizen of Milwaukee and a Water Department employee, shared some concerns regarding traffic in Milwaukee. Several problem areas include: red light running, failure to stop at crosswalks, unregistered vehicles, failure to yield, and non-use of turn signals. Some suggestions for improvement are a major marketing effort and a crackdown effort. Alderman Zielinski wants to introduce legislation at the state level to increase fines for speeding. Safety Director DUKES expressed that these problems are major concerns of the Police Department and Safety Commission.

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Ms. HERMANN requested that future reports by Assistant Fire Chief SAIN include whether the fire was caused by cigarettes or smoking materials, so that the Commission may have future direction for education. Assistant Chief SAIN reported that that information isn't always available because the investigation is pending, but when the cause is available, it will be reported.

Mr. RADKE discussed the new substitute ordinance relating to the duties and composition of the Milwaukee Safety Commission. The ordinance was adopted by the Safety Committee.

The new ordinance reduces from 18 to 9 the total number of members appointed to the Commission. Two-thirds of the members shall be residents of the City who hold no other public office or public employment. One-third of the members shall be representatives of the private sector agencies and organizations providing public safety education and injury prevention training. The ordinance states that as of February 28, 2005, the terms of all incumbent members of the commission shall expire.

Safety Director DUKES reported that Public Safety Committee approved and the Common Council did adopt the ordinance that requires motorized scooter dealers to post signs warning customers that they cannot drive the scooters on city streets, bicycle paths and sidewalks. Buyers are also required to sign statements indicating that they are aware that it is illegal to drive the scooters they are purchasing. Mr. RADKE reported that several aldermen were appreciative that this suggestion came from the Safety Commission, that this is the type of issue they are looking for.

Safety Director DUKES mentioned that with the adoption of the new ordinance, the responsibilities of the Safety Commission will increase to include firearms, water safety and poisoning.

A strategic planning session is scheduled with Annie SCHWARTZ, of the Police Department Public Information Office, the Police Liaison officers, the Health Department, the Fire Department, DPW so all departments can work together to represent the City of Milwaukee.

Mr. LOEFFLER reported that he is retiring from BOTS, so the April 2005 Safety Commission meeting will be his last. Mr. RADKE thanked Mr. LOEFFLER for his service to the Safety Commission.

Mr. RADKE thanked Mr. LOEFFLER for his many years of faithfulness as a State employee to this Commission.

Mr. LOEFFLER commended the Commission for their involvement in addressing the issue of motorized scooters.

Mr. BLANK motioned that the Commission needed to contact the Intergovernmental Liaison office to contact the State regarding mandatory auto insurance for the State of Wisconsin.

Thursday, October 6, 2005

There was a discussion regarding the line-of-sight ordinance and the seat belt use results from the Click-It or Ticket enforcement effort.

Friday, January 27, 2006

The Safety Division's responsibilities regarding water safety were increased to collaborate with other educational entities to increase water safety awareness. Mr. RADKE suggested contacting the Journal/Sentinel regarding publishing four supplements a year regarding water safety, driving safety, fire safety, and gun safety. He added that the Journal/Sentinel could find enough people to advertise to cover the cost of the supplements, which could include a number of stories and laws on these subjects and it could also be used as a teaching tool in schools.

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. HASTING recommended further discussion on three topics concerning the Bylaws.

With the reorganization of the Commission, the Commissioners considered this the first year of operation therefore, any member could be elected Commission officer.

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. HASTING made a motion that the current draft of the by-laws be approved.

Mr. KOLEAS mentioned that when looking for what partnerships the commission should be looking for, there is a new and active initiative sponsored by Home Land Security called Citizen Core. What it does is provide training to citizens and helps them organize to be of use during a disaster. They are partnering with Red Cross. He will bring materials to a future meeting.

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Safety Director DUKES explained that with the ordinance reorganizing the Safety Commission, one of the new responsibilities is Water Safety. Chair KOLEAS stated that it is a worthwhile activity for the Commission to be involved in. Mr. RADKE reported that the

County Parks located in the City of Milwaukee have park watches and hold meetings once a month or every six weeks. He suggested contacting the County Parks to distribute water safety information.

Mr. RADKE discussed the issue of electric carts (wheelchairs) with no lights or flags to identify them. There are no State Laws on this subject. This is a very dangerous practice and it was suggested that the Safety Commission take a look at this subject.

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

Chair KOLEAS explained that the Commission is an advisory Commission. Florence DUKES is the Safety Director of the Safety Division of the Milwaukee Police Department.

Ms. SCHMIDT, a citizen, expressed her concerns regarding illegal use of fireworks. They are not only a safety hazard, they're also a health issue because of the smoke and haze caused from the lighting of the fireworks, it causes problems for people with asthma and other breathing problems. Property damage and endangering safety are also issues. Ms. SCHMIDT asks that this matter be investigated. Perhaps a Task Force could be developed to get involved because it affects the community. Not only do the laws need to be enforced, there needs to be education.

Mr. WAGLER read the City Ordinance which states: No person may sell, expose, offer for sale, use, keep or discharge or explode in this City, any firecracker, bottle rocket, cherry bomb, colored smoke bomb, toy cap, blank cartridge, toy pistol or cannon, in which explosives are used, anything that has sparklers, display wheels, skyrockets, roman candles, American-Chinese bombs, or any fireworks of the like, or construction containing any explosives with flammable compounds. The fine shall not be less than \$100.00 or more than \$500.00. Upon default of thereof, shall be imprisoned in the County Jail or House of Correction for a period not to exceed 10 days or until the forfeiture and costs are paid.

Mr. WAGLER reported that the Safety Division does send out a yearly news release reminding the public that it is illegal to shoot any type of firework that emits smoke, a spark or a bang.

Mr. KOLEAS explained that the Commission is limited as to what they can do. He did however state that the Commission would forward this information to the Community Services Division of the Police Department and also the Health Department.

Information regarding motorized scooters being a hazard while being driven in the road without any flag or reflective signs or gear was distributed. Mr. WAGLER reported that the owner's manual states that these safety accessories are optional, that the vehicles are not to be driven in the road, only to be used on sidewalks.